



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181



IN REPLY REFER TO:
NWRS

JAN 23 2006

Peter T. Young, Chairperson
State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Peter
Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for your letter of January 6, 2006, regarding the State of Hawaii's desire to designate the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

I enjoyed joining Governor Lingle and you on the fact-finding visit to Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in December 2005, and found it a good opportunity to increase mutual understanding of the resources and management needs of the area.

As I indicated in our conversations on Midway, I have contacted Deputy Assistant Secretary Paul Hoffman who represents Secretary Norton and is Head of Delegation for the U.S. on the UNESCO World Heritage Site Commission. We have discussed your recent letter to me on the proposed designation for the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and Paul wants to respond to you directly due to his role on the Commission.

I look forward to continue working with you in support of your proposal for a World Heritage Site that includes both the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Please let me or Barry Stieglitz, Project Leader, Hawaiian Islands/Pacific Islands Complex office in Honolulu know of any additional support we can provide.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

cc:
Paul Hoffman
Barry Stieglitz